

Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association
Minutes from Membership/Directors Meeting, Monday, March 8, 2010
Allen Township Municipal Building, 4714 Indian Trail Road, Allen Township, Northampton
County

The membership/directors meeting was called to order at 7:14pm, with the following directors & members in attendance: Martin Boksenbaum, Bob Hosking, Louise Bugbee, Bev Cole, Bud Cole & Jim Wilson.

Introduction of Guests

None present.

Additions to Agenda

None

Acceptance of Minutes

The February 8, 2010 minutes were accepted as presented.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Correspondence

No correspondence was received to report. However, Martin referenced the position paper he wrote on behalf of the Lehigh Valley Alliance for Sustainable Communities regarding the Marcellus Shale Play in the Delaware River Basin & mentioned that DRBC's deadline for written public comment has been extended to April 12. Bob then brought up the idea of BHCWA developing an online magazine, in which BHCWA could post position papers, etc. Martin suggested Bob investigate this idea for discussion at the April meeting, which Bob agreed to.

Old Business

- A. Bylaws & Charter/Nonprofit & Charitable Organization Registration – Jim reported that he has an appointment with an attorney in Bethlehem on March 11 to review BHCWA's bylaws & charter & to begin the process of registering BHCWA with the IRS & the Commonwealth as a charitable, nonprofit organization. The meeting will be held pro bono & it is assumed the attorney's follow-up work will be pro bono, as well. Confirmation will be made at the meeting.
- B. Marcellus Shale Play Position Paper – Bob has developed a seven-page draft position paper on the Marcellus Shale Play for consideration by BHCWA, as was discussed & agreed to at the January meeting. He will attempt to edit the paper down to one succinct page for review at the April meeting.
- C. Foundation for PA Watersheds Survey – Jim reported that Chris, who is out of town on business, has begun to complete an electronic survey from the Foundation for PA Watersheds, which will enable the Foundation to develop a snapshot of PA's 300 community watershed organizations & the work they do & provide further motivation to DEP for a Growing Greener III initiative. If need be, Jim will assist Chris, when he returns from his business trip, in completing the electronic survey.
- D. BHCWA Strategic Plan—see item "E" under Program, Activity & Committee Reports below.

New Business

- A. BHCWA-HCTU Partnership Cleanup Projects – See item “A” under Program, Activity & Committee Reports below.
- B. PPL Susquehanna-Roseland Power Line Project Position Paper – Jim reported that Chris has written & submitted to the National Park Service a position paper on behalf of BHCWA regarding PPL’s reconsideration of siting the proposed power line through the BHC Region. NPS is lobbying PPL to reconsider this alternate route through the BHC Region over the proposed route, which would extend through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Monroe County.

Program, Activity & Committee Reports

- A. BHCWA-HCTU Partnership Cleanup Projects – Bud reported that as a result of the Association’s partnership program with HCTU on February 24, BHCWA will partner with HCTU on cleanup projects along the Hokendauqua Creek at the Northampton Skate Park on March 27 & April 24. An email announcement about the March 27 cleanup will go out to the membership in the next week.
- B. Great American Cleanup of PA – Jim reported that Chris has made contact to register BHCWA for the Great American Cleanup of PA this spring & that a cleanup date will be scheduled at the April meeting. GACPA is a statewide, public-private partnership effort to remove litter & trash from PA’s roadways, parks, forests, riverbanks, neighborhoods & open spaces that will take place between March 1-May 31. PennDOT will supply gloves, vests & trash bags.
- C. Winter Wonderland Walk Report – Bob & Bud reported that the Winter Wonderland Walk at the Mary Immaculate Center in Lehigh Township on February 27 was a great success, with 28 people in attendance, despite a significant snowfall the day before. Bud took some photographs of the community program walkabout, which Jim will forward to Jason to post on the website. Bob will send a thank you note to Jim Bock, Assistant Vicar of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, for permitting the Association access to the Center for the outdoor program. Bud reported that ten new members were recruited to join BHCWA as a result of the program. Bud handed the completed membership forms to Jim, who will forward them to Rick for inputting into the BHCWA membership database & electronic membership list. Jim reported that Colin has agreed to also maintain the membership database & distribution list in order to contact the membership when Rick is unavailable.
- D. BHCWA-HCTU Partnership Program Report – Bud reported that the “Streambank Restoration 101” workshop that BHCWA sponsored in partnership with the HCTU on February 24 at Northampton Area Middle School was a success, resulting in two partnership cleanup projects along the Hokendauqua Creek at the Northampton Skate park on March 27 & April 24. John Mauser, member of both BHCWA & HCTU, presented the workshop to an audience of about 20 people, with assistance from Jeff Sabo, Waterways Conservation Officer, PFBC.
- E. Strategic Plan Committee Report – An ad hoc committee was established to continue developing the BHCWA Strategic Plan. Plan sections developed/established to date include the plan’s Overview, Mission Statement, Vision, Programs & Operations, and its five Goals. Objectives & Activities for each Goal need to be developed. Four BHCWA members volunteered as ad hoc committee members to develop draft Objectives & Activities for three of the five Goals. Bud & Bob will develop drafts for the Education & Outreach Goals, Jim will develop drafts for the Planning & Programming Goals & Martin will develop drafts for the Policy & Advocacy Goals for review & discussion at the April meeting. Committee members are still needed to develop Objectives & Activities for the Fundraising, Membership & Operations Goals and for the Marketing & Communications Goals. The Outputs & Outcomes and Implementation sections of the Strategic Plan also need to be developed.

Grant Project Reports

- A. Surface Water Quality Assessments Project Report – Jim reported that this project has not yet commenced. NCCD was approved \$15,339 by DEP to conduct surface water assessments on the Hokendauqua, Indian & Catasauqua Creeks. The project deadline is February 2011.
- B. Coldwater Conservation Planning Project Report – Jim reported that NCCD was approved \$6,000 by the Coldwater Conservation Heritage Partnership to develop a coldwater conservation plan for the Hokendauqua Creek Watershed. Contract & project directions are pending. The project deadline is early 2012.
- C. WREN Grant Project Report – Jim will include funding to develop a tabletop exhibit & introductory literature for BHCWA in a Water Resources Education Network (WREN) Grant proposal due March 26.
- D. PACD Grant Opportunity – Jim intends to apply for PACD funding to publish a newspaper insert on nonpoint source pollution, watersheds & community watershed organizations in Northampton County for insertion in either the Express-Times or Morning Call. Grant application deadline is April 1.

News & Announcements

- A. A Source Water Protection Workshop is scheduled from 1-4:45pm on 03/09/10 at the Northampton Community College, Main Campus.
- B. An Act 38 Rally is scheduled to be held at the State Capitol in Harrisburg on 03/09/10. Act 38 is PA's Nutrient Management Law that regulates the management of manure on concentrated animal operations.
- C. A Natural Resource Inventory Workshop is scheduled from 10am-3pm on 03/10/10 at the Lower Saucon Township Government Center.
- D. The Foundation for PA Watersheds is hosting a 2010 Watershed Summit: A Conference for Watershed Associations & Their Allies on 05/01/10 at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in State College.
- E. Martin indicated that he will list BHCWA's planned cleanups this spring in the Lehigh Valley Alliance for Sustainable Communities Earth Day Calendar.

The day after the meeting, Bud & Bev Cole reserved a table at the Pennsville Hotel so that the next meeting of the Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, April 12, 2010 at the Pennsville Hotel, 3750, Lehigh Drive (PA 248), Northampton (Lehigh Township).

The meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.

Submitted by Jim Wilson, Northampton County CDWS & Secretary of BHCWA